

# DEPUTY DAIRY COMMISSIONER CRUTTENDEN BOUGHT LARD.

Examination Showed It Was Not Pure Article and New London Grocer Was Arrested.

Deputy Dairy Commissioner Tyler Cruttenden found adulterated lard in the store of Abraham Gordon at 110 Bradley street, New London, on April 14. In consequence Mr. Gordon was arraigned in police court Thursday morning, charged with a violation of the pure food act. His trial was not terminated, because his counsel, as he told the court, had not the memorandum of authorities at hand. The arguments will be heard next Wednesday and Gordon is at liberty on his own recognizance.

It was charged against the grocer that he sold and offered for sale food which was adulterated. Attorney McGuire said, after a plea of not guilty had been entered, that he would endeavor to show the court that the violation was purely in the construction of the law. He asked that it be understood that the arguments of Prosecuting Attorney Cronin and himself be made at a later day. Judge Colt allowed this request after Mr. McGuire had explained that copies of the public acts, which he had taken to Hartford to be rebound, contained his annotations of cases with which he had familiarized himself. The hearing given Gordon by the dairy commissioner at Hartford was postponed once, and because of various other delays in taking the investigation up the prosecution did not take place until Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner Cruttenden asked that he visited Gordon's store on April 14 and that Mrs. Gordon sold him a pound of lard. A wrangle followed between the lawyers as to the legality of the complaint, in that it did not allege that Gordon, through his agent, sold and kept for sale adulterated lard. The complaint was amended. The lard, Mr. Cruttenden said, cost ten cents for the pound. He divided it into three parts, leaving one with Mrs. Gordon and taking the others. One of these was turned over to Dr. John P. Street, chemist at the state experimental station at New Haven, on April 17. The third sample he deposited with Dairy Commissioner Herbert F. Potter at Hartford.

In cross examination Mr. Cruttenden said Gordon's store was the only place he knew of that lard could be bought for ten cents that day. He asked Mrs. Gordon for "lard," not "pure lard" or "compound lard." He had no knowledge that pure lard could not have been bought at ten cents per pound. He did not remember that at the time of the hearing at Hartford he had told Mr. McGuire that pure lard could not have been bought for that price. On examination of the tub, after obtaining the sample at Gordon's store, Mr. Cruttenden said he saw it was marked "compound lard."

Dr. Street's testimony was a lesson in advanced chemistry. He said he analyzed the sample delivered to him by the deputy commissioner. It looked like lard, but after tests was shown to be practically nothing but cotton seed oil.

Dairy Commissioner Potter testified, of sending notice to Mr. Gordon on June 4 to present himself to show reason why prosecution should not be brought. He said the grocer was notified of the finding of adulterated lard in his store, in accordance with the statutes.

Both sides rested, the defense offering no testimony. Mr. McGuire indicated that the plea of the defense was that pure lard was not asked for by the deputy commissioner, and that Mrs. Gordon sold the "lard" which was most called for by the patrons of the store.

# PREPARING FOR MARINES.

Navy Yard Barracks Being Made Ready for Men.

Preparations have been made at the navy yard, where new barracks for a company of marines were finished last June, for the reception of the men. It is expected that the marine corps will utilize the coaling station within a few weeks. Contractors for supplies to the marines were given to understand when a large detail of marines was sent to Nicaragua that none would come there this winter.

No official notification has been given, but it is anticipated that marines from the Panama canal zone, who will be sent back to the states, will be located down the river. The barracks are intended for occupancy by enlisted men and officers of the Marine corps, when a school for candidates for commissions in that branch of the service will be established.

Mystic—John Francis left Wednesday for Booth Bay Harbor, Me., where he will spend Christmas with relatives at his old home.

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# OPPOSITION TO SIX SALOONS

Long Hearing Before County Commissioners Regarding Taftville Licenses—Some Places Not Well Kept—Have Reputation of Sunday Selling and are Too Near Church and School.

The hearing on the remonstrances against the granting of licenses to the six Taftville saloons within 200 feet of the Wequonoc school and Sacred Heart church, postponed from Monday, opened at 9:50 o'clock on Thursday morning in the county commissioners' office in the city hall with about 25 present. The hearing of testimony occupied a little over an hour and a half and the session ended shortly before noon, the commissioners reserving their decision.

Attorney W. A. Briscoe, appearing for the Penomah company and the remonstrants, stated that although all of the six applicants were within 200 feet of the school and some within the same distance of the church, there was no contention in the cases of Peter Fournier, Gus Paradis and John J. Desjardis that they did not conduct their places properly. The allegation is that they are within 200 feet of the school or church, and that there are too many licenses in the district of Taftville for the population. If the number of licenses is reduced by eliminating any of the six, the objection will remain that these three are within a prohibitory distance of the school or church. Licenses could be granted, said Attorney Briscoe, on condition that if within a year they remove to some other place.

Attorney J. J. Desmond, counsel for the saloon keepers, was willing to admit that the places kept by Messrs. Paradis, Desjardis and Fournier were within 200 feet from the school. The other saloons, kept by Arthur E. Watts, Patrick O'Keefe and Charles Mercier and Co., are objected to on other grounds, said Attorney Desmond, and witnesses were heard only in regard to these three.

Testimony Heard Collectively. It was decided to hear the testimony regarding the three saloons collectively and Arthur E. Watts was sworn in by Commissioner Williams as the first witness for the defense. Questioned by Attorney Desmond, Mr. Watts stated that he had kept a licensed saloon in Taftville for two years and four or five months. The place was in the Murphy building on Merchants avenue, a business street, within 200 feet of the school and separated from it by one building. A saloon had been kept in the place before and since the building burned some years ago and was rebuilt. There was no objection to the saloon, so far as Mr. Watts knew, before the present time.

To Attorney Briscoe he described the saloon's location. He has had no disturbance outside of the ordinary line of the liquor business, and to the question of what such a disturbance was like, Mr. Watts left it to Attorney Briscoe's imagination. When asked regarding a disturbance Sunday night at his place, Mr. Watts at first refused to answer, but on advice of counsel said there was a little unpleasantness, caused by family troubles, near his place. It was not caused by liquor.

As to drunkenness in the streets, at first he refused to answer, but finally replied he shouldn't think so.

# Knew of No Complaints.

Charles Mercier, the next witness, has been in the business one year and two months in the Emerson block, Merchants avenue, across the road from the school. The distance of the saloon from the school is 50 feet, and the application for a license stated it was over 200 feet, but this was ascribed to a clerical error. The saloon had been in the place seven years to his knowledge. To Attorney Briscoe he could not tell how many intoxicated men there are in the streets, as he stays inside weekdays and is away from home Sundays. Knew of no complaints about people loitering around the place. If a man had several drinks said he would sell him no more, but could not tell the limit of drinks.

Commissioner Noyes explained that Patrick O'Keefe was sick and unable to be present and George H. Pratt was the last witness for the defendant. For forty-odd years a resident of Norwich, he knew Patrick O'Keefe well, his place and location. Had no doubt that Mr. O'Keefe was a suitable person. Thought Mr. Watts and Mr. Mercier conducted first class places and were well adapted to the business. When Attorney Briscoe asked him how he knew how the men conduct the places, there was a lively exchange of words, and Mr. Pratt said he did not visit them every day but judged from appearances, as did everyone.

# Remonstrants Heard.

Frederic J. Werkings, superintendent of Wequonoc schools, the first witness for the remonstrants, said the three school buildings were contiguous, on the north side of Merchants avenue, about fifty feet from the street. There are 100 pupils attending five days a week, and he described the location of the six saloons within 200 feet of the premises, five on Merchants avenue and one on Hunters avenue. He did not know the names of the keepers. Asked by Attorney Briscoe in what manner the places are conducted, Superintendent Werking could not say, but stated men are intoxicated, disorderly and it is very frequent that the children meet drunken men. There are frequent rows in the hearing of the children during school hours and he had seen a case of indecent exposure by a drunken man within two months. There is loitering in the street. He objected to the saloons, not to the men who run them. There was no question in his mind as to the degrading effect on children, and it is against common decency. Very rarely on Sunday drunken men are not seen. After fourteen years in a no-license town, when he came to Taftville a year ago last August, the number of drunks he saw astonished him.

# Two Places Sell Sundays.

Alfred Edmundson, for thirty-six years next June a resident of Taftville, overseer in the Penomah company, considered the reputation of Watts and O'Keefe saloons very bad; that of Mercier good. The first two are said to sell on Sunday, and he had seen men coming out of Watts' place by the side door and one man, a year ago, out of O'Keefe's. He had noticed a change in the character of

the saloons in the last four years. As a member of the school board for 12 years, he had taken particular notice lately, had visited the bill frequently, and had seen many intoxicated people on the street. He tried to get a remonstrance last year, but withdrew on advice of others.

# Intoxication Every Day.

Rev. Arthur O'Keefe, pastor of the Sacred Heart church, stated there are four saloons within 200 feet of the church, and that he sees public intoxication every day, and more so on Sunday. Disorderly drunken men have come into the rectory grounds time and again, and men have been found lying drunk on the grounds. Should think saloons ought to be removed a longer distance from both church and school. To Attorney Desmond's statement that the saloon run by Peter Fournier was there before the parish acquired the land and built the church Father O'Keefe said the place is properly conducted, the only objection is that it is too near.

George N. Beardow, clerk for the Penomah company, and member of the school committee, said that three or four of the saloons had the reputation of living up to the law. A man had his leg broken in Mr. Watts' saloon and he also has the reputation of selling on Sunday, as has Mr. O'Keefe. There is more drunkenness on Sunday than on any other day, and intoxicated men can be seen early and late, even before breakfast. Mr. O'Keefe's saloon is six feet from the school property, and is separated by a wood shed fence. Mr. Beardow told of the history of the school buildings.

# Accidents from Saloons.

John Eccles, agent of the Penomah company, the last witness for the remonstrants, was permitted to read a list of accidents that have occurred as a result of the saloons during the year. In March a man was assaulted near a saloon and left in the street. A man over 70 was brutally assaulted during this summer, lost an eye and ten weeks' work. On November 6 a man's leg was broken in a saloon. Last Sunday a man was found insensible in the back of a saloon in the woods, and might have frozen to death. Mr. Eccles thought that in Mr. O'Keefe's saloon the doors might as well be opened on Sunday. Watts' place is the same and also Desjardis'. According to Mr. Eccles, asked as to the character of Taftville, Mr. Eccles replied that the village has gone bad. The cause is the saloon. There are eight places within a radius of a mile from the center of the village. The population of Taftville village he placed at 2,500. About 2,000 probably attend the Catholic church.

To Attorney Desmond's questions, Mr. Eccles replied that he has been a resident of Taftville for 39 years, first as an overseer of weaving and for twenty years in charge of the whole mill. The land where the saloons now are, used to be part of the Stanton farm and the land was sold by the company as house lots. The saloons were at first farther up the

hill, but gradually worked down into their present location.

# Arguments Made.

After a ten minutes' recess, Attorney Briscoe and Desmond summed up briefly. The former considered it demoralizing and against public policy that within the distance of 200 feet of a public school there should be such places. These saloons are improper places, improperly kept and he asked the commissioners to eliminate the worst two.

Attorney Desmond considered it pathetic to close down Mr. O'Keefe's place, after many years, when he is sick and in the shade of life, and said they had no specific evidence against Mr. Watts. He understood the saloon keepers might get their licenses transferred if they removed to the required distance. He commended the fairness shown by the remonstrants.

The commissioners announced that they would give their decision later.

Winsted.—Miss Mary Eldridge of Norfolk has announced her intention of providing a Christmas dinner for the patients and attendants of the Litchfield county hospital.

# BRINGS A SUIT FOR THE SUM OF \$2,000.

Claim is for Board Bill of Twenty Years' Standing.

A board and lodging bill of over 20 years' standing is the basis of a suit for \$2,000 brought Thursday by Melvin M. Peters of New London against Mrs. Cornelia Potter, also of New London. Mr. Peters is acting for himself and as administrator of the estate of his wife, who died in November, 1907. The papers were served by Deputy Sheriff J. T. Tubbs and are returnable before the superior court the first Tuesday in January.

Peters alleges that on or about Feb. 1, 1886, he and his wife entered into a contract with Mrs. Potter whereby they were to furnish her with board and lodging for \$3 a week. This they did until the demise of his wife in November, 1907, when Mrs. Potter ceased to board with them. Peters alleges that neither he nor his wife ever received payment.

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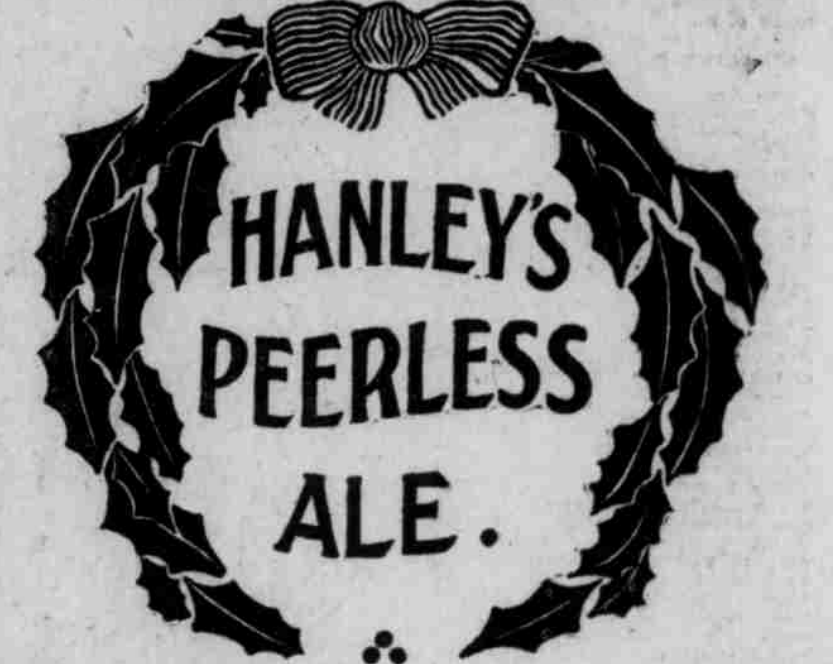
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